

**Amendments to the Claims:****Listing of Claims:**

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled.
4. Cancelled.
5. Cancelled.
6. Cancelled.
7. Cancelled.
8. (Currently amended) A system for recycling an individual tire comprising:  
means for compacting said individual tire into a compacted form; ~~and~~  
means for pinching said individual tire in said compacted form at one or more locations;  
and  
means for inserting a coupling element at the pinched locations of said individual tire.  
~~means for maintaining said individual tire in said compacted form.~~
9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein in said compacted form a cubic volume of said individual tire is reduced by at least fifty percent.
10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein said means for compacting said individual tire comprises a first crushing plate, a second crushing plate and a main piston cylinder coupled to said first crushing plate ~~and said second crushing plate~~, said main piston cylinder moving said first crushing plate toward and away from said second crushing plate.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said main piston has a compressed air or hydraulic configuration.
12. (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising a proximity sensor for sensing a distance between said first crushing plate and said second crushing plate, said proximity sensor activating said means for maintaining said individual tire in compacted form when said main piston cylinder reaches full extension.
13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 13~~ A system for recycling an individual tire comprising:

means for compacting said individual tire into a compacted form;

means for pinching said individual tire in said compacted form at one or more locations;

and

means for inserting a coupling element at the pinched locations of said individual tire wherein said means for pinching comprises one or more protrusions extending from a first crushing plate and from a second crushing plate.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~13~~ 8 wherein said coupling element is a nail, staple, wire or thread.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 15~~ A system for recycling an individual tire comprising:

means for compacting said individual tire into a compacted form;

means for pinching said individual tire in said compacted form at one or more locations;

and

means for inserting a coupling element at the pinched locations of said individual tire wherein said means for pinching comprises one or more protrusions extending from a first crushing plate and from a second crushing plate, wherein said coupling element is held by a drive bushing to each of said one or more protrusions.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 further comprising:  
means for marking said individual tire before using said means for compacting with an identifier of a scrap tire generator.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said identifier represents identification of a tire generator.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein said identifier is a sequence of letters, numbers or symbols.

20. Cancelled.

21. Cancelled.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.